1999 - 2000

FACULTY OF MUSIC

presents

YOUNG ARTISTS FESTIVAL CHOIR 2000
SING FOR PEACE

April 1, 2000

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Faculty of Music

Saturday, April 1, 2000 at 8 p.m.
MacMillan Theatre

FACULTY OF MUSIC

Presents

SING FOR PEACE

The University of Toronto Choirs
welcome
Brian Finley, pianist/composer
Donna Bennett, soprano
Young Artists Festival Choir 2000

PROGRAMME

MacMillan Singers

Christopher Dedrick — **Joy Sounds**

J. S. Bach
(1685-1750) — **Sing Ye to the Lord, Motet I**
Singet dem Herrn ein neues Lied, BWV 225

Aaron Copland
(1900-1990) — **The Promise of Living**
(from The Tender Land)
Doreen Rao, conductor
George Brough, accompanist

Welcome Remarks
Dr. David Beach, Dean, Faculty of Music
Marguerite Jackson, Director, Toronto District School Board

U of T Concert Choir, MacMillan Singers & Young Artists Festival Choir

Brian Finley — **Requiem for a Millennium** (*Toronto premiere*)
Processional: Requiem aeternam
Psalm 23: "The Lord's My Shepherd"
Sanctus
Psalm 24: "The earth is the Lord's"
Rest in the Eternal Light of Paradise
Postlude: Requiem aeternam

CLASSICAL 96.3 FM TORONTO
CLASSICAL 103.1 FM EASTERN ONTARIO
Media sponsor 1999-2000 season

Donna Bennett (Guest Artist) Soprano
Kathryn Sadler, Mezzo Soprano
Stephen Erickson,Tenor
Giles Tomkins, Bass
Brian Finely, (Guest Artist) Piano
George Brough, Synthesizer
Doreen Rao, conductor

Traditional Spiritual — **Witness** (arr. Jack Halloran)

Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958) — **Five Mystical Songs** (excerpts)
Wayne Strongman, conductor
Matt Leigh Smith, pianist

Lydia Adams — **Mi'kmaq Honour Song**
Heather Eyerly, student conductor

Stephen Hatfield — **African Celebration**
Doreen Rao, conductor

YOUNG ARTISTS FESTIVAL CHOIR

Cardinal Carter Academy Singers (T.C.D.S.B.)
Gloria Gassi

Cobourg D.C.I. East Chamber Choir (Kawartha–Pine Ridge S.B.)
John Ringereide

George S. Henry Academy (T.D.S.B.)
Cher Alexander

Islington Chamber Singers (T.D.S.B.)
Anne Kong

Markham D.H.S.–Third Stream (York Region)
Dawn Caswell

Monarch Park Collegiate (T.D.S.B.)
Adriana Radelicki

Montcrest School (Private)
Bina John

North Toronto Collegiate Chamber Choir (T.D.S.B.)
Amy Gilbert

O'Neill Intermediate Chamber Choir (Durham)
O'Neill Senior Chamber Choir
Erin Collins

Rosedale Hts. S.S.Chamber Choir (T.D.S.B.)
Charles Kipper

Sutton District H.S. Concert Choir (York Region)
Deirdre Lawrence

Toronto East Youth Choir (T.D.S.B.)
James Pinhorn

Uxbridge S.S. A–Choired Taste (Durham)
Mary McKelvey

Elaine Mason, Project Co-ordinator

MacMillan Singers • Doreen Rao, Director

Soprano
Mary Aimoniotis
Arlene Charters
Emilie Frise
Laura Halls
Jessica Luckett
Jessica McCormack
Meghan Roberts
Katherins Whyte
Abigail Wong

Alto
Jennifer Centrone
Melinda Delorme
Debbie Jonas
Mireille Lebel
Adine Mintz
Tara Nadal
Kate Sadler
Paola Scalisi
Jillian Yemen
Jordann Zaza

Tenor
Kevin Bieman
Bernie Byers
Chad Clark
David Dellaire
Stephen Erickson
Wayne Gwillim
Ryan Harper

Baritone
Ariel Barnes
James Baldwin
Bryan Estabrooks
Stephen Fraser
Matt Leigh
Paul Newman

Bass
Adam Brox
David McCallum
Peter McGillivray
Marty Smyth
Giles Tomkins

Concert Choir • Wayne Strongman, Conductor

Soprano
Anna Coodin
Chantal Fennell
Esther Joo
Elizabeth Kinghorn
Julia Ying-Cheng Lee
Eve McLeod
Yuko Okunuki
Jadelyn Ong
Michelle Westberg
Sarah Whalen

Alto
Rani Chow
Cheryll Chung
Juliet Hess
Yuka Kobayashi
Sunny Lee
Cecilia Lee
Cindy Saunders
Laura Steel
Charlène St-Aubin
Vicky Watt

Tenor
Absalon Figueroa
Drew Henderson
George Ohki
Eric Osborne
Brad Stark
Ryan Switzer

Bass
Greg Andrews
Scott Cameron
Brandon Cunningham
Chris Kendy
Chris Miranda
Jonathan Mitchell
Dan McCoy
Adam Osinski
Derek Oxley
Frank Sinclair
Tim Smith
Jeremy Strachan
Kevin Tam
Richard Woodward

Meet the Artists

DOREEN RAO's distinguished career as a conductor and teacher links the standards of professional performance with the goals of music education. Celebrated for her spirited and moving concerts, Dr. Rao's commitment to the art of choral music is recognized in her worldwide appearances as conductor, masterclass teacher, lecturer, and choral clinician. Awarded the University of Toronto Elmer Iseler Chair in Conducting (1999), Doreen Rao conducts the Faculty of Music MacMillan Singers and the University Women's Chorus. She teaches graduate and undergraduate studies in choral conducting and music education and regularly conducts the University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Choirs in performances of major works. During her long association with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, Doreen Rao served as assistant conductor of the Chicago Symphony Chorus under the direction of Margaret Hillis, her teacher and mentor. As Music Director and Conductor of the celebrated Glen Ellyn Children's Chorus, Dr. Rao prepared her young singers for concerts, tours, and recorded performances that won four Grammy Awards and a Grand Prix du Disque under Sir Georg Solti, Margaret Hillis, and James Levine. Her choirs performed regularly with the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Leonard Slatkin and as invited guests of the Oregon Bach Festival for performances with Helmuth Rilling. In a national tribute presented to her by the American Choral Directors Association the eminent American conductor Robert Shaw wrote, "The world of choral

music owes her special thanks. She is preparing our future." Canadian Journalist Bronwyn Drainie described Doreen Rao as a brilliant artist and teacher...whose methods and materials could re-energize the art of singing in our schools.

BRIAN FINLEY continues to pursue a multi-faceted artistic career that includes his duties as Artistic Director for the Brian Finley & Friends Concert Series in Cobourg and as Music Director at St. John's United Church in Campbellford. He is becoming increasingly known not only as a composer and pianist, but also as an impresario, and a promoter of young musical talent. His compositions have been performed from Victoria to Vienna. As a pianist, he has appeared in over ten international piano competitions including the 8th International Tchaikovsky Piano Competition in Moscow, and has performed with orchestras such as the Dallas Symphony and Calgary Philharmonic, and at venues ranging from the Olympic Music Festival in Washington, to Wigmore Hall in London, England. He continues to tour Canada extensively with his wife, soprano Donna Bennett. His has several recordings include a collection of solo piano music from Wigmore Hall, in addition to many for the CBC and CFMX, and three critically acclaimed CDs with Donna.

As co-founders of the Westben Arts Festival Theatre in Campbellford, Ontario, he and Donna are deeply committed to the enrichment of their community through the musical and dramatic arts. Westben is a not-for-profit organization committed to the development of both amateur and professional arts in the Campbellford area. Its activities include a professional Summer Music Festival, community-based choral and music theatre events, and musical education. Now run by a dedicated Board of Directors, Westben is busily preparing for the official opening its new venue, "The Barn" on Donna and Brian's farm outside of Campbellford on July 1st, 2000. This 350-seat facility will be the site of the Summer Music Festival and Summer Music School and as such, will be the hub of artistic events organized by Westben in the Campbellford area. Recent community projects have included fully-staged versions of Jesus Christ Superstar and The Sound of Music as well as Brian's Requiem for a Millennium. These productions and have involved hundreds of participants from across Northumberland County, who have performed to the enjoyment of thousands of spectators. Brian now looks forward to the premiere of his musical Samson at the Barn in the spring of 2001.

Canadian soprano **DONNA BENNETT** is known to audiences internationally for her performances of opera, oratorio and in recital. Operatic performances have taken her to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, the London International Opera Festival, the Henze Festival in Montepulciano, Italy, as well as to Berlin, Neuberg, Toronto and New York. She made her Canadian Opera Company debut in Britten's Albert Herring returning the following season to sing over thirty performances as Gretel in Humperdinck's Hansel and Gretel for the COC's Touring Company. She performed the role of Dede in the British premiere of Bernstein's A Quiet Place and has created several roles including the Mermaid in Paul Max Edlin's The Fisherman in London as well as the role of Ariana in the world premiere of R. Murray Shafer's The Enchanted Forest. She has sung with Opera Atelier, Tafelmusik, the Toronto Symphonietta, Orchestra London and the Victoria Symphony. Other recent Canadian engagements include Despina in Mozart's Cosi fan tutte with Opera Mississauga, with her brother Dwight Bennett conducting, and as special guest soloist with Orchestra London in an evening of Christmas music. In addition to her many operetta roles, she has performed as Maria in The Sound of Music and as Mary Magdalene in Jesus Christ Superstar for the Westben Arts Festival Theatre. She sang the soprano solo in the world premiere performance of Requiem for a Millennium, also for Westben. The performance is available on CD.

Donna's discography also includes the Wergo release of Hans Werner Henze's opera The English Cat and a collection of Mozart Arias and Lieder recorded live at the Olympic Music Festival in Washington. Together with her

husband, pianist Brian Finley with whom she tours extensively, she has released three other CD's: A Christmas of Love & Light, Lullabies for Benjamin, and Love's Old Sweet Songs recorded in Victoria Hall, Cobourg. Several other performances have also been recorded for CBC, CFMX, KING-FM (Seattle), and the BBC in London.

As Founder and Artistic Director of Tapestry Music Theatre, **WAYNE STRONGMAN** has championed the work of Canadian writers and composers for almost twenty years. He has served as Music Director for many notable Tapestry productions, including Atom Egoyan & Rodney Sharman's chamber opera *Elsewhereless* in Toronto and Ottawa, the award-winning *Nigredo Hotel* by Nic Gotham and Ann-Marie MacDonald, *No No Miya* by Rudolf Komorous, *Passion* by Stephen Sondheim, and the multi-award-winning *Still the Night* by Theresa Tova. Frequently chosen to conduct the premiere of new vocal works for CBC Radio, he directed the Canadian premiere of the Gorecki *Miserere* at the Glenn Gould Studio and this past spring conducted the world premiere of *Kyrie*, a new choral work by Christos Hatzis, for Rosedale United Church, Toronto and for the CBC at the Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony's *Open Ears Festival.*

Don't miss our season finale featuring 175 of some of Canada's finest instrumental and vocal talents on the stage of MacMillan Theatre in Mahler's monolithic Symphony No. 3

Saturday, April 8, 2000 • 8 pm • MacMillan Theatre
Raffi Armenian, Music Director and Conductor • Colleen Skull, alto solo
University of Toronto Symphony Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra
U of T Women's Chorus • Royal St. George's College Boys' Choir, Douglas Jamieson, Director

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